

VZCZCXYZ0000
OO RUEHWEB

DE RUEHUL #0502 0740001
ZNY CCCCC ZZH
O 140001Z MAR 08
FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8902
INFO RUEHBJ/AMEMBASSY BEIJING 3960
RUEHKO/AMEMBASSY TOKYO 4104
RUEHMO/AMEMBASSY MOSCOW 8578
RUEHIN/AIT TAIPEI 2545
RHHMUNA/CDR USPACOM HONOLULU HI
RHMFISS/COMUSKOREA CC SEOUL KOR
RUACAAA/COMUSKOREA INTEL SEOUL KOR
RUEKJCS/OSD WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L SEOUL 000502

SIPDIS

SIPDIS

PLEASE PASS TO NEA/IR AND DRL/NESCA

E.O. 12958: DECL: 03/13/2018
TAGS: [KS](#) [IR](#) [KDEM](#) [PGOV](#) [PHUM](#) [PREL](#)
SUBJECT: ROK AGREES WITH US VIEWS ON IRAN'S PARLIAMENTARY
ELECTIONS BUT CAUTIONS ON STATEMENT

REF: STATE 25587

Classified By: POL M/C Joseph Yun. Reasons 1.4(b/d)

11. (C) Kwak Sung-kyu, MOFAT Director for Middle Eastern Affairs, said that the ROK agreed with all of the reftel points detailing the U.S.'s assessment of the March 14 parliamentary elections. Instead of a public statement condemning the elections, however, Kim believed that a statement that expressed respect for Iran's internal procedures but that also called on Iran to have greater respect for the democratic process would be the most effective way to encourage democracy in Iran.

12. (C) According to Kim Sung-hoon, Deputy Director for Middle Eastern Affairs, the ROK Embassy in Tehran had sent to MOFAT an analysis that suggested that the Iranian public was increasingly critical of President Ahmadinejad for creating unnecessary confrontation with the U.S. The general public, however, did not connect Iran's pervasive economic problems and declining living standards with its isolation from the international community, which stemmed from Iran's lack of cooperation on its nuclear programs.
VERSHBOW